



ATHERSTONE
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1944

ATHERSTONE :
E. S. COLMAN, "News" Office, Long Street.
1945.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Atherstone

October, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

The district consists of twelve parishes. The population at the 1931 Census was 21,869, distributed as follows:—

WARWICKSHIRE

			Males	Females	Total
Ansley	...	...	1059	1012	2071
Atherstone	...	...	3085	3160	6245
Baddesley Ensor	...	...	843	760	1603
Baxterley	...	...	215	193	408
Bentley	...	...	139	118	257
Caldecote	...	...	84	49	133
Grendon	...	...	644	612	1256
Hartshill	...	...	1292	1250	2542
Mancetter	...	...	353	349	702
Merevale	...	...	42	60	102
Oldbury	...	...	37	47	84
Polesworth	...	...	3407	3059	6466
					<hr/> 21,869 <hr/>

The estimate of resident population at mid-year 1944 is 21,810—and it is on this figure that the vital statistics have been taken.

The vital statistics reckoned on the figure of 21,810 are as follows:—

			Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
Live Births	...	...	448	16	464	21.2
Still Births	...	...	10	1	11	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	239	10.9

For England and Wales the live birth rate was 17.6; and the death rate 11.6 per 1,000 of population.

Nineteen infants, under the age of one year, died in the district during 1944, giving an infantile mortality rate of 40.9 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths in the district during the year were due to: Heart Disease, 70; other diseases of circulatory system, 4; Cancer, 29; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 10; other forms of Tuberculosis, 2; Diabetes, 1; Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 1; Acute Infantile Encephalitis, 1; Cerebral Haemorrhage, 35; Bronchitis, 8; Pneumonia, 8; Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum, 2; Diarrhoea under 2 years, 2; other digestive diseases, 4; Kidney Disease, 10; Maternal Causes, 3; Premature Birth, Congenital Debility, etc., 13; Violence, 17; other causes, 19.

Male deaths numbered 122 and Female deaths 117.

Male births numbered 226 and Female births 238.

INFANT WELFARE.

There are Centres at Atherstone, Hartshill, Polesworth and Dordon. Each Centre is managed by a Committee of ladies, who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifiable infectious disease cases during 1944 were:—

Scarlet Fever, 40; Diphtheria, 13; Pneumonia, 48; Erysipelas, 11; Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis, 1; Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 1; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1; Paratyphoid Fever, 1.

It will be seen that 13 cases of Diphtheria were notified in the year. None of the cases had been immunised; one was of school age, one pre-school age and eleven were adults, three being German Prisoners of War.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified in 1930 was 31. The following years respectively were 50, 10, 17, 62, 42, 60, 41, 27, 10, 10, 41, 23 and 1 in 1943.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

64 cases were treated in the Hospital during 1944, namely 16 cases of Diphtheria and 48 cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am,

Yours truly,

HENRY R. FISHER, M.B., B.CH., (Cantab.)

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices,

Atherstone.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the work of my department during the year ended 31st December, 1944.

GENERAL INSPECTION

The general inspection of the various premises within the district for the discovery of conditions causing or likely to cause nuisance has been carried out. The total number of inspections, interviews and re-visits made is 2,740, and the number of defects and nuisances for which notices were given is 1,334.

The following list gives some of the principal nuisances and defects (excluding defects under the Housing Act, 1936) which have been dealt with.

General defects on property ...	...	414
Defective closet accommodation ...	...	28
Defective and blocked drains ...	...	58
Rats and Mice Destruction Act...	...	39
Nuisances from keeping animals...	...	15
Offensive accumulations ...	...	9
Conditions at farms and dairies...	...	72

The total number of dwelling-houses inspected for the year is 253 and, including re-visits, inspections numbered 567.

173 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. 151 of these were rendered fit, 22 being transferred to 1945 records.

One house was represented under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and a demolition order was made.

There are no Common Lodging Houses or Houses-Let-In-Lodgings in the district.

The following list is extracted from the Progress Report (Unhealthy Areas and Insanitary Houses) to the 31st March, 1945. This includes to that date action taken under the Housing Act, 1930, and the corresponding provisions in the Housing Act, 1936.

CLEARANCE AREAS:

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Clearance Areas	252
Number of persons displaced up to 31st March, 1945 ...	952

INSANITARY HOUSES Not Included Above:

Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	14
Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	5
Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use houses for human habitation	8
Parts of buildings closed under Section 12... ..	1
Number of persons displaced under first sub-head... ..	52
Number of dwelling-houses made fit as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12... ..	53
Number of dwelling-houses made fit as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12	572

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY

There are 165 farms and cowkeepers in the district. Of these 116 produce milk for sale and the following are the numbers of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Producers in the district...	...	...	116
Producers outside the district	...	...	3
Retail purveyors	...	...	50

317 visits of inspection and of works in progress were carried out. Generally speaking the premises, also the animals and milk vessels, are kept in a satisfactory condition. In seven cases it was necessary to caution occupiers regarding cleanliness and lime-washing.

Of the producers in the district, 45 are Accredited and nine Tuberculin Tested producers.

I have carried out the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme in connection with the producer-retailers in the district. For this purpose 560 samples of Milk were taken and tested for keeping quality.

Comparison of 1944 results with those obtained at the outset of the Scheme in 1943 shewed that there was considerable improvement in keeping quality of the milk produced.

Cases of failure to produce milk of good keeping quality were generally found to be through insufficient cleansing and sterilisation of milk utensils and milking machines.

Eleven other samples of milk were taken and submitted to biological examination. None of these were found to contain tubercle bacilli. When tubercle bacilli are found in the milk the County Council are informed and the Divisional Veterinary Inspector takes such measures as are necessary to find the source of infection.

The following list gives the improvements, structural alterations and repairs carried out at farms in the district for the nine months.

Farm No. 1:

New dairy and new boiler house constructed.

Farm No. 2:

Two cowsheds made into one.

Cowshed floor concreted, walls cement rendered, new hopper windows fixed, new boozings set, ventilation improved and hay racks taken out.

New dairy and boiler house constructed.

New drainage system laid from farm buildings.

Farm No. 3:

New septic tank and percolating bed built.

Farm No. 4:

Council main water laid on.

Farm No. 5:

Hot water supply system extended to dairy.

Farm No. 6:

Two cowsheds totally re-modelled, floors concreted, new boozings set, new standing divisions fixed, new hopper windows provided, ventilation improved, loft removed and water laid in.

New dairy and boiler house constructed.

New drainage system from farm buildings laid.

Farm No. 7:

New dairy constructed.

Farm No. 8:

Council main water laid on.

Farm No. 9:

Council main water laid on

Farm No. 10:

New double cowshed for 32 cows built.

Farm No. 11:

Council main water laid on.

Farm No. 12:

New double cowshed built for 16 cows.

Farm No. 13:

Cowshed for 16 cows extended to house further 11 cows.

Existing cowshed floor concreted, causeway concreted, new boozings set, new standing divisions fixed, new hopper windows provided, ventilation improved and water laid in.

Dairy floor concreted and walls cement rendered.

Farm No. 14:

New hopper windows fixed in cowshed.

New boiler house constructed.

Farm No. 15:

Head-to-head shed for 36 cows totally reconstructed to tail-to-tail type.

New drainage laid from cowshed.

Dairy floor concreted, walls cement rendered and new windows fixed.

Farm No. 16:

New dairy built.

New drainage system laid from farm buildings and new cess-pool built.

Farm No. 17:

New septic tank and percolating bed built.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The slaughter of animals for food for this district is carried out at the Government Abattoir at Nuneaton. The carcasses and offals are inspected there before allocation.

There were 1,596 pigs killed for private consumption in the district in the year. Of these, as time permitted, I inspected 269. Incidence of diseased conditions in these was slight, owing evidently to care in feeding, segregation in general and cleanliness. In only eight instances was evidence of tuberculosis present and in no case was it advanced or generalised. The disposal of infected organs was directed upon. In only one case was a carcass and all organs found to be unfit for food—this a case of septicæmia.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations are complied with by the butchers; also grocers and others are satisfactorily dealing with the storage of hams and bacon.

Premises where food is stored or prepared are inspected. 309 visits were paid to such premises in the year. There are 92 registered premises for the preparation of or manufacture of preserved food, etc.

The following table shows the articles of food which were inspected at the premises of grocers, greengrocers, butchers, etc., and were found to be unfit for human consumption. The same were destroyed.

Number	Details	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
54	Eggs (Rotten and Broken)			4
295	Tins Meat, Milk, Fruit, Fish, Soups and Vegetables (Blown, Holed, etc.)	3	—	16
23	1-lb. Cakes (Stale)	—	—	23
—	Flour (Contaminated in transit) *	2	—	—
—	Margarine (Discoloured)*	—	3	6
—	Bacon and Ham (Decomposition)	1	—	22
—	Oranges and Lemons (Rotten)	5	1	18
—	Fish Cakes (Mouldy)	—	—	14
—	Sausages (Decomposition)	—	3	17
—	Rice (Contaminated)	—	—	4
—	Cheese (Stale)	—	—	3
—	Carcase and all Organs of one Pig (Septicaemia)	1	2	2
—	One Pig's Liver (Cirrhosis)			5
	(Items marked " * " were salvaged)	15	1	22

FACTORIES.

There are 111 factories on the Registers. Of these 25 are bakehouses.

These premises are visited at intervals as shown by the table below.

There are 31 outworkers employed by hat manufacturers in the district.

The sanitary conditions of factories has been well maintained and no complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Details	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	50	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	6	—	—
		Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Want of cleanliness		2	2
Want of ventilation		—	—
Other nuisances		6	5
Sanitary Accommodation			
Unsuitable or defective		—	—
Not separate for sexes		—	—
Insufficient		—	—
Total		8	7

WATER SUPPLY

Nineteen samples of water were taken during the year. 16 were for chemical and three for bacteriological examination. Two samples were of the district main supply, fifteen were of well water supplies and two were in connection with Rivers Pollution.

The Public Analyst reported that the District main water was chemically of excellent quality and suitable for use as a public supply. The water from five wells was reasonably safe water for use for drinking purposes and water from a further eight wells as unsafe for drinking. One of these latter wells was cleansed and repaired, two have been put into disuse. Council main water is being laid on to replace another and the other four wells serve owner-occupied premises which are inaccessible to Council mains at present. The owner-occupiers have adopted boiling precautions before using the water.

WORKS DONE AND NUISANCES ABATED AT PREMISES
(OTHER THAN FARMS AND DAIRIES) DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

HOUSING EXTERNAL

Walls—

Taken down and rebuilt	3
Raked and re-pointed or rendered	32
Door sills repaired or new fixed... ..	8
Horizontal damp proof courses inserted... ..	6
Vertical damp proofing of walls... ..	7
Open areas constructed	3
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	3

Roofs—

Stripped and re-slatted or re-tiled... ..	7
Repaired and made weather-proof	41
Torched	1
Skylights repaired	3

Guttering—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	31
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Downspouts--

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	17
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Chimney Stacks--

Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	5
Raked and re-pointed	14
Pots provided and fixed	2

Yards, Courts and Passages—

Taken up and re-laid or concreted	29
Yard walls re-built	2

Water Supply—

Laid on into houses	...	...	...	...	...	29
Standpipes removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells dis-used	...	...	...	...	...	4
New pumps provided to wells	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Well steinings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hot systems provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
“ Furred-up ” services replaced...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Drainage—

New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided	24
Defective drains re-laid	8
New inspection chambers constructed	11
Septic tanks repaired	1
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced...	8
Cesspools repaired	2
New cesspools constructed	3
Ventilation shafts repaired	2
New gullies provided	26
Obstructed drains released	25

Closet Accommodation—

Conversions to W.Cs.	2
New W.C. compartments built...	6
New W.C. pedestals fixed	20
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided...	15
Water supply laid on to W.Cs....	16
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments...	30
Privies converted to pails...	3

Washing Accommodation—

New wash-houses built	1
Dilapidated coppers repaired	12
New furnace pans fixed	3
Copper flues repaired	2
Water laid in to wash-houses	1

Ashes Accommodation—

New ash bins provided	19
Ashpits put into dis-use	1

Outbuildings—

Repaired	12
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Painting—

Houses painted	12
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INTERNAL

Walls—

Totally or in part re-plastered	57
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Ceilings—

Totally or in part re-plastered	39
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Windows—

New additional provided	2
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Defective frames repaired or replaced	22
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Windows re-corded	14
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Doors—

Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed	13
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Floors—

Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired	24
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Quarry floors re-laid	25
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New concrete floors laid	3
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Staircases—

Woodwork repaired	13
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Handrails provided and fixed or repaired	3
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Fire Ranges and Grates—

Repaired and/or new fixed	22
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Sinks—

New sinks provided and fixed	7
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New wastes fitted or existing repaired...	12
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Sculleries—

New constructed	1
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Bathrooms—

New bathrooms provided	4
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New wash basins fixed	6
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New baths fixed	4
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MISCELLANEOUS

Rat infested premises cleared	33
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed...	4
Offensive accumulations removed	9
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	15
Food Preparing Premises—	
New making-up places built	2
Cleansed and improved	7
River pollution prevented	2
Piggery floors concreted	3
Nuisances from camps abated...	1
Verminous premises disinfested	12
Dirty houses cleansed	3
Overcrowding abated	1
Nuisances at moveable dwellings abated	2
W.C. accommodation provided at places of entertainment	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All houses where infectious diseases were notified were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., passed through the steam disinfectant.

The homes of infectious tuberculous persons are similarly treated when a patient dies or is removed to sanatorium, etc.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists, is carried on from six premises in various parts of the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are three premises in the district where the business of Rag and Bone dealing is carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits have been made to the docks and wharves. Four boats were inspected. None of these were carrying offensive cargo, nor was any infectious disease met with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Throughout the year casual observation was kept on factory chimneys. No cases of undue emission of dense smoke were found.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.
Sanitary Inspector.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.

For the Year 1st January, 1944, to 31st December, 1944. Compiled by the Sanitary Inspector.

Nature of Inspections Made	Number	Number of Defects for which notices were served		Result of Service of Notices		
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Instituted Pending
1. Dwelling-houses (General Inspections)	362	57	357	382	32	—
2. Dwelling-houses (Housing Acts)	205	353	286	439	200	—
3. Courts, Yards and Passages	16	—	6	6	—	—
4. Defective W.C.'s	48	—	17	17	—	—
5. Drainage	132	4	54	52	6	—
6. Defective Privy-Middens	6	—	8	8	—	—
7. " Pail Closets	9	—	3	3	—	—
8. " Ashpits	4	—	3	3	—	—
9. " Ashbins	60	—	19	19	—	—
10. Keeping of Animals	24	—	15	15	—	—
11. Offensive Accumulations	20	—	9	9	—	—
12. Farms and Dairies	317	37	35	69	3	—
13. Factories	16	—	8	7	1	—
14. Bakehouses	40	—	4	4	—	—
15. Smoke Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Slaughter-houses	8	—	—	—	—	—
17. Meat Inspection	283	—	—	—	—	—
18. Other Food Inspections	102	—	—	—	—	—
19. Butchers' Shops	39	—	1	1	—	—
20. Fish Shops	29	—	4	4	—	—
21. Other Food Premises	139	—	4	4	—	—
22. Milk Samples	571	—	—	—	—	—
23. Water Samples	19	—	—	—	—	—
24. Shops (Shops Acts)	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Canal Boats	4	—	—	—	—	—
26. Houses Let In Lodgings	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Rats and Mice Destruction	84	—	39	33	6	—
29. Interviews	146	—	—	—	—	—
30. Miscellaneous	57	—	11	9	2	—
Totals	2,740	451	883	1084	250	—

